geography and regional factors of the hot arid (Sandy) region in the State, the Ministry of Rural Development have also sent sanctioning special projects under the Programme since 1999-2000, for sand dune stabilization, shelterbelt plantations etc. in 10 identified districts of Western Rajasthan.

2. Under Desert Development Programme (DDP), State-wise targets and allocation of funds are not made. The new projects (each watershed project generally covers 500 hectares) are sanctioned in accordance with the provisions of the Guidelines for Watershed Development and the funds are released in seven instalments over a project period of five years.

3. Since 1995-96, a total number of 3693 projects have been sanctioned under DDP for the programme areas of Rajasthan, out of which 1533 projects fall under the category of special projects. During the last three years, a total number of 1050 watershed projects and 919 special projects have been sanctioned and a sum of Rs. 24911.58 lakh has been released to the State. The year-wise break-up is as under:-

Year	Number of watershed projects sanctioned	Number of special projects sanctioned	Funds released (Rupees in Lakh) both for new and on-going projects
2000-2001	388	293	7853.78
2001-2002	245	264	8164.26
2002-2003	417	362	8893.54

4. The implementation of DDP Projects in Rajasthan is at various stages. Of the total 3693 sanctioned projects, entire project funds have been released in 841 projects. Another 880 projects are at advanced stages of implementation.

5. In order to assess the impact of the watershed development projects in Rajasthan, a study has been carried out in 302 sample projects. The impact assessment study reveals that due to implementation of these projects, the overall productivity of land and water table have increased and there has been a significant positive impact on overall economic development of the inhabitants in the project areas. The study indicates that green vegetative cover, irrigation and crop yield have improved in these areas.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Marketing and pricing policies of CIL subsidiaries

4797. SHRI JANARDHANAPOOJARY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has permitted the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited to set individual marketing and pricing policies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that following the notification, one subsidiary is encroaching upon the marketing territory of the other;

(d) if so, the details in this regard,

(e) whether it is a fact that there is no similarity in the coal production cost of each subsidiary,

(f) if so, whether in the absence of level playing field Government's permission is leading to unhealthy competition and liquidation of disadvantaged companies; and

(g) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRIKARTYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) The Government has directed Coal India Limited (CIL) to delegate powers on marketing of coal for non-core sector in case of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) and South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL). Coal pricing is uniform for both core and non-core consumers and is decided by CIL for its subsidiaries.

(c) and ((d) Whereas encroachment upon marketing territory of one subsidiary by another is not exactly taking place, a kind of healthy competition between companies will certainly develop particularly in non-core sector as consumers will have the option to select source of coal best suited to them.

(e) Yes, Sir. There is no similarity in coal production cost of each subsidiary of CIL. The method of mining is different in different subsidiaries. Some subsidiaries mine sizeable quantity of coal from underground and some subsidiaries mine more coal from open-cast mines, resulting in different cost structure which leads to difference in coal production cost of each subsidiary.

(f) and (g) There is no issue of unhealthy competition and liquidation of disadvantaged companies. Coal marketing and pricing policies have been designed to subserve the interest of the coal consumers and coal prices have to be competitive to offer consumers the best value for their money especially when faced with increasing competition from imports. Also, there is no geographical demarcation for linkages to or supplies from subsidiaries of CIL. Coal supply from a particular subsidiary is primarily dependent on availability of coal, available transport logistics and customer's preference based on economic consideration.